

GRAPEVINE

NO 7

Nov-Dec 1978

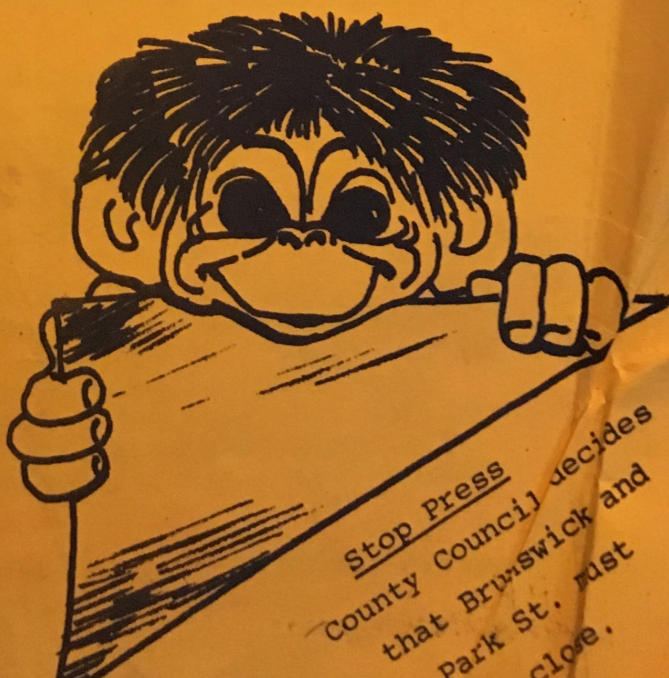
Cambridge's Community Paper

TOP



PARK
STREET
SCHOOL
SAVE
IT!

In this issue: The Bread Strike continues. . . . Fear and Loathing at the D.H.S.S. . . . New ways of helping the mentally handicapped. . . Police crack down on drugs in Cambridge. . . . Gingerbread. . . The Jam. . . Richard & Linda Thompson. . .



THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER SCHOOL CLOSURES

As the conservative dominated County Council's expected decision to close Park Street and Brunswick schools draws nearer, parents' militancy is growing. They lobbied Parliament on Thursday, 16th November, and on Saturday 18th November, a rally drew an estimated 200 adults, plus children, from Christ's Pieces, where they heard speeches against the closures, through town, to the Guildhall.

The Council's proposals involve a scheme to convert Brunswick School into a Further Education Centre, without spending any more money than is now being spent on the local education budget. Park Street is held to be an outdated and redundant school. It does require some renovation, but the opposition of parents and its standards of educational attainment demonstrate that this option would be much more realistic than closure. Cambridge does need a new Further Education Centre, but NOT at the expense of local primary schools which provide an invaluable inner city resource.

A spokesman for the campaign against the closures estimated that the economies that the closures would provide, would be about a tenth of a penny per ratepayer per week, whereas keeping the schools and building a new Further Education Centre would increase the rates by only one penny. As usual, Tory councillors offer the community bogus statistical arguments (making unsupported assumptions about numbers of pupils from the temporarily declining birth-rate), minute economic savings and real social hardship.

Once the closure-plan is given the go-ahead, most normal channels of protest will be closed. The parents and their supporters will simply have two months to lodge objections with Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education. They emphasise that they will keep up their fight and appeal to all supporters to bombard her with letters of protest.

Anyone interested in the campaign should contact Janet Jones, Tel. 63816.

TECH STUDENTS ADOPT URUGUAYAN POLITICAL PRISONER

On Tuesday November 21, the Cambridge Tech Student's Union voted to adopt a political prisoner in Uruguay. He is Ernesto Dominguez Amaral, a member of the Uruguayan University Students' Federation banned by the military regime. In common with Uruguay's 6,000 other political prisoners, Dominguez Amaral has been brutally tortured since he was arrested in March 1977.

With the help of the Cambridge Committee for Human Rights in Uruguay and the Tech Latin American society, the student's union will start campaigning for his release. Since the military coup in 1973, all opponents of the dictatorship have been facing massive repression, kidnappings, torture, and death. International solidarity with the struggle of the Uruguayan people has been instrumental in obtaining the release of some of these prisoners, but a lot remains to be done.

If you are interested in helping in this and other campaigns, please contact Fiona Blount, 11 Stockwell Street, Cambridge.

The Cambridge Sunblest Bakery at the end of Sleaford Street (near the railway line to the East of Mill Road) is one of the grimmer sites of the bakers' strike - now in its third week.

Out of over 80 unionised workers at the bakery, only 8 are on strike. The rest are still working even though they risk expulsion from the union. The 8 strikers are maintaining a twenty four hour picket, 7 days a week, in six hour shifts - two to each shift.

Support from members of other unions has not been too good. Yet despite this and its small numbers, the picket has had some success: production has been substantially cut and only one shift is operating each day instead of two. This is partly due to lack of fuel - drivers of deliveries of heating oil for the ovens have respected the picket line. The management has taken the inefficient, costly, and highly dangerous step of using diesel as fuel for the ovens. They can only get this into the bakery in small quantities. Yesterday the strikers heard that they had nearly run out and so expected another delivery. It went through this morning. One picketer thought that if there had been two dozen on the picket line, instead of two, then they would have stopped it. It was estimated that this last supply would last two or three days.

Drivers of large deliveries of flour have respected the picket line. At one stage, the management got round this by redirecting supplies to the Histon Road depot, which is not picketed, and then driving small amounts into the bakery themselves. Now the bakery has a contract with an alternative source of flour whose drivers do not respect the picket. Refuse collectors have recently offered their support.

In Cambridge it is as clear as anywhere that the strike is not simply about 26% versus 11% - it is much more fundamental.

Whatever the final outcome of the strike, it is unlikely that any of the 8 strikers will ever get their jobs back at the bakery. One of them, a shop steward, has worked there for 30 years. Most of the others - who include two shop stewards and a district secretary - have worked there 10 years or more. They are fighting because they refuse to submit to the extortionate demands of the bakery, because they refuse to work with scab labour, because, as shop stewards and unionists, they refuse to betray a cause that they are committed to. As harmful as it must be to their own short term, and possibly long term, interests, their struggle, as they put it, will help those like themselves in the future.

The strikers intend to hold out until after Christmas if necessary. With no strike pay, as previously low paid workers, and with the strike already in its third week, the hardship involved is obvious. Tucked away at the end of Sleaford Street, far from the busy centre, they do not have the same opportunity as the Firemen did, for example, of securing recognition, support and funds. It is a grim struggle and they desperately need your help in the following ways:

1. Donations The strikers received their first donation on Tuesday - £15 from a collection. Petersfield Ward Labour Party donated £5 from their funds and made a collection of £5. Other collections could easily be organised - in Colleges for example, or donations voted from JCR funds. Donations can be taken to the picket line or go to Graham Brown, 8 Marmora Road, Cambridge. Cheques etc should be made out to: "Bakers Food & A.W.U. Cambridge Branch (Strike Fund)".

2. Picketing The strikers would welcome support on the picket line - particularly between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. when management, supervisors and others drive in flour and diesel and drive out bread.

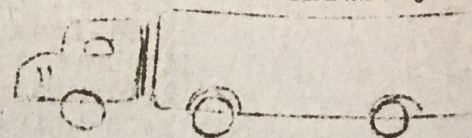
3. Wood Supplies of wood or anything at all that could be used as fuel for the picketers' fire. It gets very cold on the picket line at 3 a.m.
4. Boycott - Sunblest, Betabake and Tooks.

In Cambridge, Sunblest bakes on but, with a little support for the strike, they will not bake on much longer - not on their terms, anyway.

..... see page

for the background to the strike and the industry.

MORE TRUCKS FOR
ST MATTHEWS?



After their successful campaign to persuade the Council to adopt a road closure experiment in St. Matthews, the residents are continuing the struggle to defend their streets against excessive traffic - particularly heavy lorries. They have started a campaign to oppose the proposal by Kerridges to build NINE small factories on its site in Ainsworth Place, behind Ainsworth Street. The site is in a narrow industrial zone whose only access is through the tiny streets of St Matthews - officially classified as primarily residential, but already terrorised by huge lorries entering and leaving a number of other factories and depots in the area.

The campaign started with a meeting of over 50 residents in the Bath House. Two representatives of Kerridges came along to the Council organised Residents' Committee meeting to say that they did not think the development would increase the number of lorries and to point out the contribution to the community that would be made by the three shrubs which they plan to plant at the entrance to the site. The residents, however, were not convinced and the campaign continues with window stick⁷ stickers, car stickers, petitions, letters to the Council and possibly a picket of the Council meeting on 20th December which will consider Kerridges' planning application. There are plenty of other, less residential places ^{where} Kerridges could build factories.

AND NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS.....

The Empty Property Action Group Recently finished work on the house at 56 Histon Road. The group had leased the house from the City Council, which had left it to lie empty ready to be knocked down for the road-widening scheme at the bottom end of Histon Rd. After several months of work the house is now ready for people to live in it.

The upstairs rooms will be occupied by a woman with two children who recently left the women's refuge. The Cyrenians are to have one of the downstairs rooms for their workers to use as a rest room, while the front room downstairs will be for a homeless young man called Steve.

The idea behind E.P.A.G. is that houses should be used whenever possible. This house on Histon Rd. could have lain empty for years while the road-widening scheme was put off for lack of money. The group is hoping that the income from the (very low) rent it charges the occupiers will finance similar projects on other houses in Cambridge. More information from Andy or Julian at 53 City Road, Tel: 50365.

TOYS NEEDED

Women's Aid recently had to throw out a lot of toys owing to an unfortunate accident at the Refuge which the C.E.N. saw fit to sensationalise. Anyone who can spare some fairly robust toys in good condition should leave them at 65 Victoria Rd, or ring 52813.

KCA KITE COMMUNITY ACTION held its annual general meeting on November 22nd. Lisa Jardine was narrowly elected chairperson. A Kite concert is planned for next year. The council's planned eviction of James St. squatters was discussed, but no definite strategy for resistance was formulated.

TYPIST'S COMMENTS: The bland tone of this item about KCA glosses over some of the less pleasant things that are going on. It looks as if KCA is increasingly becoming a battleground between the liberal and labour parties in Market Ward. Councillor Lavina Hawes (Liberal) was ousted from KCA by the Labour party. Recent CEN articles about the Kite have ignored the liberals almost completely. The meeting on the 22nd was packed with Liberal and Labour students.

Perhaps it's unfair to accuse Market Ward Labour Party of jumping on the KCA bandwagon as a way of making electoral gains from the conservatives. Perhaps many of the labour people in KCA really do have the best interest of the Kite at heart. But it looks as if KCA may be losing touch with the majority of people who live and work in the Kite. One way to encourage more grassroots involvement would be perhaps to reconstitute KCA so that each street has a voting representative, with no-one else allowed to vote. Obviously, Grapevine supports KCA against the ludicrous "comprehensive redevelopment" plan, but for one would like to see action which involves less party politics and more participation.

SAVE THE KITE!	SAVE KCA.
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TROUBLE AT THE EVENING NEWS

Since Monday November 19th the Cambridge Evening News has been getting thinner and thinner. Seventy members of the National Union of Journalists are working to rule in support of a national pay claim.

The NUJ are demanding a £20 per week increase and a 35 hour week (they now work 40 hours). The Newspapers Society (the employers' body) originally offered 5%, and recently raised this to 9%, subject to Department of Employment approval - which, needless to say, is unlikely to be forthcoming. The NS refuses to consider a reduction in working hours.

The basic rate for a qualified reporter is between £60 and £65 per week; this compares with an average male non-manual wage of over £100 for a 38½ hour week. Three sub-editors on one East Anglian paper are having to claim free school meals for their kids because of their low pay.

At the CEN, the sanctions are being fully supported by NUJ members. They are refusing to do evening work; making sure that trainee reporters don't go out on assignments unaccompanied by a senior; and are being careful to do one job at a time - for instance, a court reporter will cover one case and then go back to the office and write it up before returning to court to cover another case.

Another good reason to read Grapevine, folks. . .

SENSATIONAL SHOCK HORROR EXCLUSIVE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Trades Council Chairman Ron Rolph was observed on Wednesday afternoon entering Fitzbillies, the well known bakers and confectioners on Trumpington St. Investigations have failed to establish whether Mr. Rolph was really stabbing the striking bakers in the back by purchasing bread, or whether he was just buying a cake. A spokesman for the Revolutionary Communist Current, which Mr. Rolph is not believed to have any links with, said some very boring and predictable things. Watch this space. . .

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THE BAKERS' STRIKE

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Hidden away in a paragraph at the bottom of the back page, the nationals report the superficialities of the bakers' strike to the public negotiations break down scuffles arrests 26% TWENTY SIX PER CENT! the public gasps, horrified at the greedy bakers - Uncle Jim, through liberal use of the front pages, having fixed in their minds the belief that nothing short of national disaster looms beyond 5%.

The important facts, however, are not mentioned: The basic pay of most bakers ranges from £41 - £44 per week. The present claim is for an extra tenner - hardly outrageous. The Bakers' Union submitted its claim in June. Over four months later - nicely timed to catch the rising tide of hysteria against wage claims - the Federation of Bakers agreed to negotiate on November 3rd. The 'negotiations' consisted of the following offer made on a flatly take it or leave it basis: 11% (that is £4 - £4.50 on the basic) but - and this is the crunch of the offer - only in return for the acceptance of the following productivity-increasing conditions:

1. A return to customary holiday work - the bakers lost a week's pay last year fighting for the option to work on customary holidays or not (a right which, of course, most workers have as a matter of course).
2. The right of management to move a worker to work anywhere (that is, to any plant).
3. Permanent night work.
4. Elimination of 'excessive' meal breaks (this is a delicately put requirement for cutting breaks to a total of HALF AN HOUR in a TWELVE HOUR shift).
5. An assurance that plants start up irrespective of whether they are short handed. There now exists an agreement with the Union preventing this. If this were revoked, why should the bakeries ever waste money employing further labour when they can force workers to run an undermanned plant?

This, of course, is not so much a serious offer in a negotiation, as a 'V' sign in the face of the Union.

For a miserly four quid the bakers are being asked to revoke their most basic rights protecting working conditions - rights which the Union has fought for and won in the past. What Union could agree to that and retain any confidence in itself? In the words of the executive, "We have given so much for so little in return in the past ... enough is enough." On November 6th an official strike was called.

In the Midlands and the North, members' support for the strike has been, and is, nearly 100%. In the South East many bakers chose not to support their fellow workers on strike and seemed content at the prospect of submitting to (even more) slave-like working conditions. You do not have to look far to see why.

The Bakers' Union is a small union and cannot afford to pay strike pay. In its first major strike a few years ago, it nearly bankrupted itself by paying £2 a week strike pay. Last year's strike succeeded on no strike pay. Strikers, of course, cannot claim unemployment benefit or supplementary benefit. In this situation and on a wage like theirs, who can afford to go on strike? Furthermore, the Federation of Bakers has dangled in front of the scabs the promise of a good and well protected life without the Union after the strike.

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Power has recently become more concentrated in the Federation of Bakers and is now mainly in the hands of the two big firms, Rank's Hovis McDougal, controlled by Lord Rank, and Associated British Foods (of which Sunblest is a part), controlled by Garfield Weston. Many small bakeries have accepted the 26% claim and dropped out of the Federation.

These two tycoons consider themselves big enough to opt for a final show-down. By pandering to the short term needs of a low paid work force, they are aiming to break the back of this small and penniless union, once and for all.

The Union is still hoping for support from other unions - which has so far not been very forthcoming - and is trying to scrape together enough money for a full page ad in the nationals to redress the balance of information. The Union can, and has, expelled members for not supporting the strike, but if the strike fails and the Federation manages to break the closed shop agreement (and it seems clear to many of the strikers that this is what they are aiming for), then some bakers would get along very well without the union and some of its members who are now on strike. They would have a work force of expelled union members who would have no means of protection of their rights regarding working conditions. This danger is very real at the Cambridge Sunblest bakery. At Ipswich, the largest bakery in East Anglia, of a workforce of several hundred, only 30 are breaking the strike. At only two bakeries in the area - Cambridge and Chelmsford - is the strike poorly supported. If just so happens that machinery at those bakeries is out of date and probably soon due for replacement by machinery which, in Cambridge, would require 4 workers to operate the whole plant. If the strike fails the closed shop agreement is broken, the management here could secure a very cheap redundancy payment deal with their non-unionised workforce.

The strike is not about 26% versus 11%. It is a power struggle at the most fundamental level, between Rank and Weston and the Union and its 26,000 members.

22 November 1978 Gail Colenso

THE WRITERS OF BAKING

Bakery workers get a very bad deal. In modern plant bakeries, the hours are long, the conditions are bad, and the wages are low. The hours are long:- people frequently work a 12 hour day, 6 day week just to get their wage near the average manual wage for this country. Levels of noise are frequently over the legal limit of 90 decibels for an 8 hour day. Flour dust in the air is a direct cause of high incidence of bronchitis and tooth decay in bakery workers. The floors are slippery with dust and many accidents are caused by people carrying heavy loads losing their footing. Much of the machinery is dangerous, eg dough dividers all too often also act as finger dividers. The machines which aerate the dough are seldom properly fenced and in one case, a man was killed in such a machine in Gillingham at the same time as the factory Inspectorate were in the process of prosecuting Allied Bakeries because the machine could be entered when the blades were still in motion. They were fined 200. People are made to enter hot ovens at temperatures up to 370°F to release snarl ups when the lines of trays get stuck - one man who did this in Walthamstow was in hospital afterwards for several weeks with the inside of his lungs dried out. The list of hazards is almost endless - and one of the reasons that so little progress has been made in fighting these threats is that the labour force in a bakery is frequently transient and not in one place long enough to develop industrial solidarity. Often workers are immigrants, who could find no other jobs in a racist society. Many of the workers still working at the Cambridge Sunblest Bakery are Poles and Italians). The present militancy has partly come about because other jobs are harder to find and people are seeing that an improvement in their lives can only come

through fighting management where they are, rather than trying to get another job elsewhere. Coupled with this, many of the Asian immigrants who over the last 10 years or so have tended to spend a year or so at some shit job in England. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (sometimes illegally) prior to returning home with some cash, are finding it far more difficult to return home and so again are discovering the need to stand together and fight where they are.

BUT IS THE STRIKE REALLY CRUMBLING? The media have lost no opportunity to tell us of bakers returning to work. But much of what we've heard and seen is due to a clever campaign by the Bakers Federation which effectively is a spokesperson for the two giants of the industry - Rank Hovis McDougal & Allied Bakeries, who bake 60% of the bread produced in this country. Allied Bakeries are, incidentally, a subsidiary of Associated British Foods (ABF), itself a subsidiary of a giant Canadian multinational called Garfield Weston Holdings. They say production is not far from normal - but there is good evidence that much of the plant baked bread that is available has come out of cold storage as it has to at this time of year, as now is the time hot cross buns are baked and put into cold storage for Easter! In many areas delivery vans are sent out empty or almost empty to convey the impression of bakeries working at high capacity. The low staffing level means that hygiene levels cannot be met, and so problems of cockroaches and fungal contamination will not be dealt with properly. Some reports have made much of reports of violence on the picket line, but an angry confrontation at Walthamstow where 7 picketers were arrested was precipitated by an unprovoked police charge. The police even asked firemen to turn their hoses on the picketers, but the firemen's reply was "we'd rather turn them on you bastards!"

Another aspect of the dispute is that when Spillers pulled out of baking in April 1978, the ABF and RHM, in order to prevent a threat of nationalisation, made a deal with Roy Hattersley (then prices Minister) to continue operation of 13 of the 36 Spillers bakeries which closed. The Federation of Bakers now say that in view of the strike they will be forced to go back on this agreement, despite the fact that they made the agreement with the Government, not the unions.

The pay demand for 10 a week is entirely justified. Since the Spillers closure, and through other nationalisation, production per employee has been steadily rising. So have prices, as there are only two companies "competing" for sales, and so have profits: half yearly profits of both ABF and RHM are up this year despite strikes at Christmas and last August. Even the Government has some allowance for especially low paid groups to get more than the 5% norm.

SUPPORT THE BAKERY WORKERS
SUPPORT THE PICKET IN SLEAFORD STREET

For more information about the bread industry (working conditions, history, food quality, relation to other sectors of the economy, liquid paraffin in bread) read, "Our daily bread, who makes the dough", produced by the Agricapital Group of ESSRS (British Society for Social Responsibility in Science). Available from Arjuna or from: Jonathan Jones, 153 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge. Tel. 64472

WARNING BY HMG - THIS
BREAD IS ALMOST CERTAINLY
CONTAMINATED WITH LIQUID
PARAFFIN, BUTYLENED HYDRO-
CARBON CHLORIDE, HEAVY
METALS, DRUGS, COCAINE, TEARS OF
RACISM

FEAR AND LOATHING IN THE D.H.S.S.

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A Cambridge Claimants' Union is beginning to organise itself again, aiming to unite claimants around an effective welfare-rights information service and to provide a pressure group against cases of benefit-rate restriction and discrimination by the local D.H.S.S.

Claimants' unions have in general had very radical aims, not only being non-hierarchical, autonomous, grass-roots organisations of the unemployed, distinguishing themselves sharply from professional pressure groups like the Child Poverty Action Group, but also campaigning for popular control of the D.H.S.S., and an end to means testing. The C.U.'s took off on the wave of community activism and optimism of the late 60's/early 70's when it appeared realistic to fight for such radical political goals. The day to day collective confrontation with the D.H.S.S., the direct attempt to alleviate the hardship and poverty of many Social Security claimants, also seemed to provide a viable medium for the realisation of libertarian socialist aims.

However C.U.'s have had to face inherent organisational problems

- lack of national co-ordination.

Whilst local D.H.S.S. offices have considerable discretion in policy they are basically under national control and cannot be significantly changed by local groups, but only by national work aiming at political and legal reform.

- One small section of claimants can all too easily end up providing a service for the rest. Often only middle-class activists have the free time and access to welfare rights information. Personal pressures on all claimants can be very high, especially those with large families, having problems etc. Many claimants can become alienated from C.U. activists and treat them much like social workers. The activists themselves need to make long-term commitments yet are subject to pressures to find work. C.U.'s can thus be very short-lived.

- Widespread ignorance of welfare rights and the withholding of information -and consequently of benefits- leads to a very heavy workload for C.U.'s. C.U.'s increasingly take on the role of the state, acting as unpaid

social/community workers-while at the same time having to confront the D.H.S.S. politically in order to alleviate hardship.

- The lack of funding and of stable premises makes it difficult to maintain continuity and build up long term popular organisations.

- Restrictions on public spending have tightened up the "benevolence" of the D.H.S.S. and worsened the situation of many claimants. As David Donnison, Chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, wrote in New Society, "If all 3 million claimants were to ask for everything they might get, the service would simply collapse.....it has to rely on 'rationing' procedures of some kind...claimants ignorance of their rights, delay, lost files and the generally forbidding character of the system".

C.U.'s and the welfare rights groups are being forced into more and more defensive positions, struggling even to help provide claimants with basic information.

These problems are illustrated by the experience of the last Cambridge C.U. which operated from Autumn '77 into the late Spring. It eventually collapsed through overwork of the few active members, a lack of premises and finance and a failure to involve claimants at large. But the response of claimants seeking advice, support and representation at appeals tribunals etc. also bore out the need for an organisation which fights for claimants rights.

In Cambridge, in 1978, we can't go on naively maintaining the radical aspirations of the old C.U.'s. Some of the ideals may have to be sacrificed, we still need to fulfill a local need and maintain a political perspective, of commitment to claimants democratic and fighting for social welfare policies where we can. To get off the ground though, a C.U. first needs to prove its effectiveness in making claimants better off providing a reliable and on-going community information resource. Those -g a welfare rights centre should all be claimants themselves and from

this position, claimants' maximum participation can be encouraged. Stable premises, which are a possibility, are essential, but claimants must be able to call them their own. If the welfare rights movement is to get out of its defensive rut, effective advice and an element of popular grass roots control need to be preserved. Only then can national poverty - to say nothing of the cultural poverty of daily life to which claimants are subjected - be effectively fought.

These are just one claimant's views of how welfare rights activities might be re-established in Cambridge and a viable CU set up; they aren't necessarily representative of the views of those currently involved in the CU. If you agree or disagree or can help with a claimants' union in any way, please get in touch with Julian, Tel: 52813.

Meanwhile, Back in BRIXTON.....

Part One: British police harass anarchist dissidents. . .

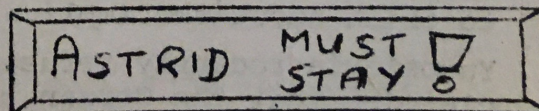
. . . On May 25th Iris Mills and Ronan Bennett were arrested in their London flat for being in possession of two bags of flour, a bag and a half of sugar, and two very small tins of weedkiller. According to the police this evidence proved the existence of a bomb-making conspiracy. Dozens of raids were carried out in London, Huddersfield, Bristol and Manchester, resulting in several arrests for possession of cannabis but very little evidence of a conspiracy to "overthrow society".

Eventually the police arrested two friends of Iris and Ronan, Stewart Carr and Taff Ladd. The number was increased to six when the police arrested two members of the defence group which had been formed to secure the release of the other four - Trevor Dawton and Vince Stevenson. Vince was arrested in a KGB style snatch operation, when 15 policemen leapt from unmarked cars while he was on his way to the Persons Unknown defence group meeting (the name comes from the charge against the six - "Conspiracy with Persons Unknown"). He was held illegally for six days without being charged (see Grapevine 5 for the full story).

Hysterical reports appeared in the national press about "extremists thought to be planning attacks on several establishment targets", and Iris was branded the most dangerous woman in the country, and labelled several times in the process. She has now been released after spending 5 months in virtual solitary confinement in Brixton Prison, and the so-called bomb-making materials have been returned to her. Trevor is also out on bail, and the conspiracy charges have been dropped against all six. The police are still planning to bring charges of conspiracy to rob, on the basis of guns they allegedly found during the arrests. It has taken them six months and literally dozens of fruitless identity parades, and they still have not brought these charges. And this is the age of police computers with split second response!

It's about time that the state was forced to bring this farce to an end. Letters demanding that the charges be dropped and an end to the harassment of the six should be sent to the Home Secretary. The Persons Unknown defence group can be contacted at 182 Upper St., London N1; or you can contact the local defence group via Grapevine. Vic Gilbert

Part Two: Astrid Proll Defence Campaign



On Wednesday night a coachload of supporters of the Astrid Proll defence campaign drove down from Cambridge to Brixton for a torchlit demo around the prison walls.

Astrid, suspected by the German Government of membership of the Red Army

WHOSE HANDICAP?

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AM

Cardiff Universities Social Services run a group home with a difference: four students share with five mentally handicapped people of their own age. It all began in July 1974, when a few more mentally handicapped people got the chance to escape the constraints of an institution and to try to live like the rest of us. It was a home set up by students, and students live in it. The non-student residents (in their late teens) had been held to be too handicapped for discharge from hospital. Another important difference between this project and others was the emphasis placed on building links with local people to break down the social isolation that often affects even the smallest group home.

Residents either attend an adult training centre or their college classes during the day; at evenings and weekends they share housework tasks and participate in a range of activities which make as much use of the neighbourhood facilities as possible. There is a student support group, and a full-time social worker employed to develop community links and to monitor progress in the home. The home is financially self-supporting.

In just eighteen months the number of skills possessed by each of the handicapped residents rose by between eleven in one case, to forty-one in another. The critics had predicted that those same people would be back in hospital in three months. They had expected nothing of people who, given an atmosphere of love and respect, showed that they had something unique to offer, and could grow towards the freedom of responsibility. Mentally handicapped people and those society calls normal can live and work together, so long as values are not those of material success or intellectual achievement. There is an alternative to the patterns of competition and fear which divide both individuals and nations.

In Cambridge, a week ago, a resident of a hostel for the handicapped, where no-one else lived in, was found dead by a passer-by. When the hostel was opened two years ago, social services ignored pleas from voluntary societies concerned with the handicapped, that there should be care and supervision provided from within the hostel.

There is growing recognition that experiments of the Cardiff type hold out the most hope for a future of co-operative living. What is needed now is people who will commit themselves to such experiments, either by supporting them by giving time and money, or by joining a community.

Astrid Proll, continued from previous page. . .

Faction, faces extradition from Britain to a life of hell or death in a West German high security prison. She is now in Brixton prison awaiting trial.

About 150 people took part in the demo. One unfortunate thing was the lack of political content to the slogans shouted by the London contingent; it took the Cambridge group to think up a slogan which associated Astrid's imprisonment with systematic state repression rather than arbitrary injustice. What was very encouraging was the number of people from Cambridge who came down - a good sign that people are beginning to think about the implications of Astrid's proposed extradition.

Yugoslavia recently refused to extradite a group of West Germans, claiming that the German police had not provided sufficient evidence against them. The evidence brought against Astrid in 1974 was also extremely weak, and we must continue to demand that she be allowed to stay in Britain. The Cambridge defence group is publicising the campaign by visiting local groups and explaining the importance of the case. We need help with this, as well as more money for publicity. Further information from Elena, Tel: 69603.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

(a personal view)



Grapevine's roving reporter interviews a member of Amnesty International.

G. A.I. bases its case on the concept of inalienable human rights as laid down by the U.N. Declaration and other embodiments of international law. Do you think that there can be a place in such an organisation for individuals with libertarian outlooks?

J. I have no doubt that there are serious flaws in the philosophical basis of the concept of Human Rights and in the justification of international law. However, the fact remains that people are imprisoned and tortured for their beliefs and that we ought to be trying to do something about this.

G. You say that people are imprisoned for their beliefs. Surely, what is more important is what people do. Does Amnesty restrict its activities to campaigning about people who have not put their beliefs into practice?

J. There are two points to be made here. Firstly, spreading ideas is important. X-witness Grapevine and if we are going to accept a progressive theory of history, we should acknowledge that the development of ideas plays an important part in this process. Secondly, people who are locked up for just saying things are oppressed and suffer, just as much as those who have been imprisoned for taking more concrete political action.

G. Isn't this all rather abstract? Don't you think that whilst indulging in all this academic fantasy you might be ignoring the fact that Amnesty is not in fact effective in achieving the aims anyway?

J. Amnesty's principle methods of working are writing letters to Governments and publicising cases of repression. Obviously it is very difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of this sort of pressure, particularly as the results should not be just measured in the terms of people released immediately, but include longer term changes in attitudes.

G. How do you know that governments don't just laugh at you?

J. Perhaps they do, but that doesn't mean that they will not also respond positively to our campaigns.

G. Amnesty claims that it is not trying to bring down governments but rather that it is opposing certain specific actions of those governments. Do you claim that it is possible to separate opposition to particular acts of repression by the state, from opposition to the governments themselves?

J. Obviously, the suppression of opposition views by more or less coercive means is intrinsic to the nature of government and by opposing such policies we are inevitably opposing governments.

G. Amnesty also claims to be a non-political organisation whilst it also, for example, opposes apartheid and works in what is perhaps one of the most sensitive fields of contemporary international politics. Do you think that this position is consistent?

J. No.

G. Following on from this, do you not feel that it is impossible to campaign effectively about individuals in the way that Amnesty tries to, without contributing to the broader political struggle in that country?

J. Undoubtedly an effective campaign about individuals must bear in mind the broader issues which relate to it. In a place like Cambridge, where campaigns tend to be of a short duration and to lack continuity, there is much to be said against

Amnesty, continued. . .

long-term adoption for other reasons, too. Amnesty is responding to this by running short campaigns about individual countries; but the adoption of prisoners remains a useful way of obtaining a tangible result for a campaign, and of gaining awareness of how real people suffer by being put in prison.

G. Do you think that Amnesty should adopt people imprisoned for their sexual orientation?

J. This question has been much discussed in Amnesty. A lot of the opposition to this idea is clearly based on prejudices about gays. But the Churches provide much of the support for Amnesty, and its effectiveness - which is ultimately the only standard by which it can be judged, would be severely reduced if this support were to be lost.

G. Is Amnesty a pacifist organisation?

J. Amnesty opposes both the death penalty and torture, but does not adopt as 'Prisoners of Conscience' people imprisoned for acts of violence. It takes no position on acts of violence which do not fall within these guidelines.

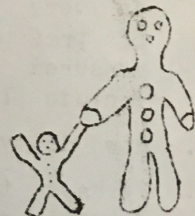
G. What would be your attitude to the imprisonment of members of the National Front?

J. Amnesty tries to adopt prisoners irrespective of their political views. But individual members should be free to do what they want. In the case of the imprisonment of people who advocate unpleasant measures, it is necessary to weigh up the need to oppose State repression - fascists feel pain too - and the need to oppose the ideologies of those people. The simplest option is to go away and campaign about something else.

G. Amnesty is now becoming absorbed into the establishment in many Western countries, and is becoming bureaucratic. What do you think about this?

J. Insofar as this increases the respectability of A.I. in the eyes of those whom we are trying to influence, this change shouldn't be opposed. Insofar as it leads to inward-looking attitudes and a lot of futile paperwork, it should be ignored.

Gingerbread;



Over the past few years the name Gingerbread has come to be quite well-known, but there are still a lot of people who do not yet know who we are. Gingerbread is a self-help group for single-parent families (Note 'for', not 'of' - we welcome anyone who is in tune with what we stand for and who is prepared to help us). We don't ask what sort of single parent you are - we are there to help all and any whether widowed, divorced, separated, unmarried, or with a partner in prison, long-stay in hospital or even travelling abroad for much of the year. Many of these different kinds of people have the same problems, especially when it comes to coping alone with the children. If you need help we will try to provide it, or help you to find the right place for advice, or maybe go along with you, or else say 'We're all angry about that too, come along and join us in our campaign to get it changed'.

Our office is at 2 Petersfield, and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 - 3 pm. Or you can ring Frankie at 52927 or Heather at 870981.

Of course we provide social events for members, and there are plenty of events for the children too, from afternoon teas at members' houses to outings, for which we try to raise enough money to let the children go free. We don't have a subscription, as so many of our members are on their beam ends when they join us, but even the impoverished can help fund-raise. We've had to charge for our newsletters though, as the cost of postage and stationery is now so high, and that is 10p a month or £1 a year. We have lots of pamphlets and information sheets, many of

THE BLACK PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST 'SUS'

The 'sus' laws are section 4 of the 1824 Vagrancy Act, currently used extensively by police to justify harassment of black youth. In those inner city areas of the country where West Indian immigrant communities are concentrated, it is common for black kids to be picked up for "suspicion of being about to commit a criminal offence" (ie "loitering with intent"). conviction under sus requires only statements from two police officers that the youth in question was observed to be observed behaving suspiciously; and no corroborative evidence whatsoever.

At a meeting in Cambridge last Tuesday members of the campaign against sus, including a youth himself picked up for sus, a black law centre worker, and a white youth worker, detailed their experiences of harassment in the London boroughs of Lambeth and Paddington. They explained how police commonly concoct standard stories about the 'suspicious behaviour' of completely innocent black youth. Whilst individual racist police may often pick on youths solely because of their colour, it appears to be policy of certain police divisions to use the sus laws as a means of social control, confining potentially militant and disorderly sections of a bitter, deprived community to certain localities, through threat of arrest. (we should point out however that certain other police divisions are quite opposed to this use of the law, or its use simply to harass black people)

The use of the sus law clearly exacerbates the situation of many black youth, often jobless and homeless, and increases their bitterness not only towards the police, but to a white society which has totally rejected them. When sus convictions ruin careers and can lead to further harassment of once-convicted, ...and therefore marked (but still perhaps totally innocent) youths, often the only solution is to retreat into real criminality. Since you have nothing, and you're likely to be arrested anyway just for being on the streets, then you might as well get into stealing, ... what is there to lose?

The Black People's Organizations' Campaign Against Sus is a grass roots community response to police harassment, originating from a group of Brixton parents. Through it, the most oppressed and deprived sections of the black community may finally begin to find the political voice they so badly need. The campaign may succeed in steering a private member's bill for the repeal of the sus laws, through parliament. Although relations between the black community and the police are not a grave problem in Cambridge, and the sus laws are only used in a highly localised fashion wider national opposition is required if they are to be wiped off the statute books. The campaign requires middle class/pressure group support if it is to succeed in parliament, yet hopefully this will not defuse its real energy and importance which derives from the black community itself.

DREAD IN NA INGLAN, ↑
WAR IN NA CAMBRIDGE? ↙

It is to the credit of Cambridgeshire Constabulary that they have never picked up black youths for 'sus'. However, questions about black community/police relations have recently been raised following a confrontation in the midland tavern. Apart from the racist remarks and behaviour this incident involved, it might be rash to criticize the attitude of local police as a whole towards blacks. But it's clear that there are growing numbers of young blacks here who feel increasingly bitter towards the police, whom they feel have played a role in their rejection by white society. They're also being gradually, but effectively deprived of their one cultural centre; the Midland. This has involved the removal of the black landlord by the brewery, the restriction, and a developing police presence. A few years ago the pub was a thriving scene on the british reggae circuit; now the blacks hardly want to call their own a paranoid weekend disco where the atmosphere's evaporating week by week.

THE GINGERBREAD PLAY-SCHEME

Self-help is a basic part of the philosophy behind Gingerbread. One way in which we put this into practice is in organising play-schemes. Many of our working members in Cambridge find great difficulty in arranging care for their children during the holidays. In some cases the parent has had to leave his or her job, in the hope of finding employment elsewhere after the holiday. This can cause financial and emotional distress.

To help alleviate this problem, Cambridge Gingerbread run supervised playschemes at half-terms and during school holidays. In order to cut costs and function for longer hours (8.30. am - 6 pm) we have combined with the Nursery Action Group. A playleader is employed and other help obtained from Student and Gingerbread volunteers. The emphasis is on 'play' since, after all, the kids are on holiday. Paint, clay, glue etc are provided but many of the most successful activities have originated from the children themselves. During the Autumn half-term some generously donated scraps of material led to a creative sewing craze among both girls and boys. They eventually progress to designing and making a Guy Fawkes. This fulfilled all expectations by winning the Mayor's Best Dressed Guy competition, and came to a magnificent end on the Midsummer Common bonfire.

The numbers attending the N.A.G. and Gingerbread playscheme (forty children during the last half-term) establish beyond doubt that there is a desperate need in Cambridge for Projects of this nature. We have already booked St. Matthews School from January 2nd until the 5th, this time without N.A.G. So any extra help would be very welcome, especially by the children, who value a volunteer's time and interest as much as do the playleaders.

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War Inna Cambridge? continued from previous page

**SCRAP'SUS**

Although they may be legal grounds for police interference, this will in no way alleviate the problems young blacks face in Cambridge, to which no local powers are giving serious attention. Being relatively small in size, the Cambridge black community has even less of a voice than elsewhere. White people cannot speak for them.

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O.K. FOLKS

Just a quick word from the Grapevine collective. This may sound surprising, but we want you, the readers of this paper, to have a complete selfish attitude towards us. Think how you could use the paper to tell people about the group you're involved with, the causes you feel most strongly about, or the events you're planning. That's what Gingerbread and the Claimants Union did in this issue, and what Friends of the Earth and Student Community Action have been doing regularly. If Grapevine is helping groups like this reach more people, then it's doing one of its most important jobs.

Actually, we don't mind if you're a bit unselfish and would like to help produce the paper. We'll be having a meeting to plan the Christmas Issue at the Bath House, Gwydir St., on Tuesday December 5th at 8 pm. Everyone is welcome to come along.

News, articles, ads, details of meetings, requests for subscriptions (ten issues for a quid) should be sent to

Grapevine,
10 Kimberley Rd.,
Cambridge.

INFLATABLE DREAMS

Page 15

Over the past couple of years, you or your kids may at various times and places (summer playschemes, schools, Strawberry Fair, adventure playgrounds) have been amused, thrilled, or maybe even a bit scared to see, or fling yourself around on large red and yellow PVC monsters. These are inflatables --- air filled structures --- and there's a group of us in Cambridge who build and use them. We're committed to giving community groups cheap, or where necessary, free use of inflatables, and this winter we want to build some more.

Cambridge Inflatables Group was set up in 1976 by a group of playleaders and students, and it financed the first inflatable from donations from Arbury and Romsey adventure playgrounds, and Rees Thomas and Roger Ascham schools (who all retain a share in it) plus prepayment of a fee for two weeks work on Cambridge's summer playschemes for the Amenities and Recreation dept. Last year we built another one, a huge, red yellow and blue mattress, and we've also got some smaller mobile structures, good for smaller children but also capable of causing total chaos.

Inflatables can add a new dimension to play and exercise for all ages (including for instance, handicapped children, who gain a freedom of movement they wouldn't otherwise have). They invariably attract dozens of wild, energetic children, and can be used, provided there's adequate supervision, as portable nurseries or creches at festivals, rallies or conferences etc.

Play and youth provision in Cambridge has rather limited resources, and so tends to be inadequate and unimaginative, suffering from a lack of sensitive, creative and democratic planning. Like other local independent groups (notably Overstream House and the playbus, although we're by no means as well established as these), we want to develop our work and supplement existing provision, to help create more effective, lively play facilities, through cooperation with other groups and the local authority.

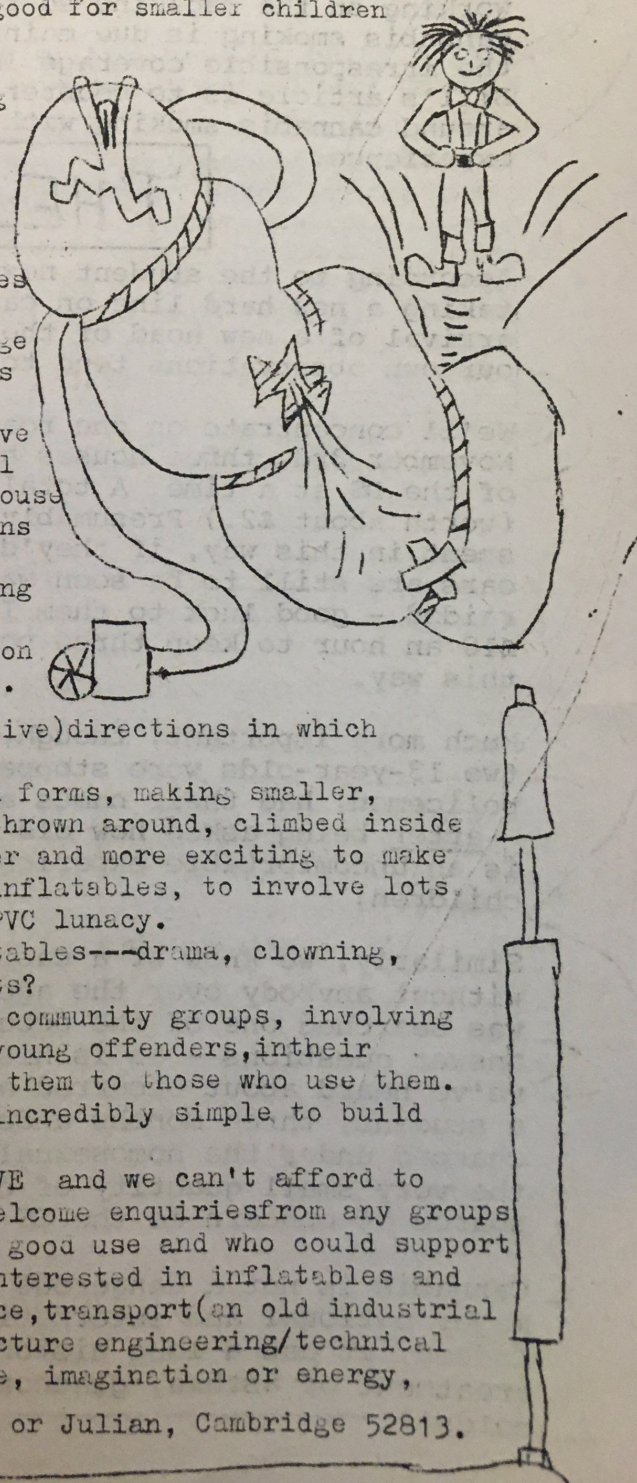
There are several (and not exclusive) directions in which Cambridge Inflatables could move:-----

----- Experimenting with new shapes and forms, making smaller, movable structures, which can roll or be thrown around, climbed inside or climbed on. These are cheaper, quicker and more exciting to make and can be combined with large bouncing inflatables, to involve lots of people in moving seething dramas of PVC lunacy.

----- Combining other media with inflatables --- drama, clowning, music, game playing, even a disco lights?

----- Building inflatables with other community groups, involving for instance young unemployed people or young offenders, in their construction, and devolving control over them to those who use them. Whatever you might think, inflatables are incredibly simple to build and the skills involved can be minimal.

But unfortunately they are EXPENSIVE and we can't afford to finance new structures ourselves. We'd welcome enquiries from any groups who feel they could put an inflatable to good use and who could support its construction. Otherwise, if you're interested in inflatables and can help in any way; we need workshop space, transport (an old industrial sewing machine?), advice on PVC/air structure engineering/technical skills, or most important, just some time, imagination or energy, please get in touch with us. Ring Clare or Julian, Cambridge 52813.



Dear Reader...

At the last Grapevine meeting, two or three people said that they were worried about carrying too many articles about cannabis, since most people have never used the drug and many feel a little nervous about it - it probably wouldn't stop you reading the magazine, but might put you off participating more actively.

For a number of reasons which should become clear, we decided that Grapevine should not subject itself to any such self-censorship. So please don't be put off - anybody who wants to help build a community paper for Cambridge is more than welcome. Also, we would like to stress that contributors do not necessarily agree with any but their own articles.

At the same time, I think that almost all of the people who have been working on the magazine so far would agree that public hostility to cannabis smoking is due mainly to misinformation - in particular, to the irresponsible coverage in the mass media. One of the purposes of Bill's article is to counter some of the myths that have grown up around cannabis smoking with some factual information based on actual experience.

THE DRUGSQUAD

Steve Smith

According to the student newspaper Stop Press, Cambridge police are taking a new hard line on cannabis smoking, supposedly because of the arrival of a new head of the Drugs Squad. Although difficult to prove, our own observations tend to bear this out.

We'll concentrate on one road :- Kimberley Rd. Between October 16th and November 3rd, three houses have been raided, using up to eight members of the DS at a time. A total of 1/15th oz. of cannabis resin was found (worth about £2.) Presumably, the taxpayers' money wouldn't have been spent in this way, if they'd known this beforehand. Despite this, DS cars are still to be seen watching the houses that have already been raided - good luck to them I suppose, although it must cost at least £10 an hour to keep three police officers and a Ford Escort occupied in this way.

Much more important, though, is the fact that on Friday 10th November two 13-year-olds were stopped in Kimberlee Rd. by two plainclothes policemen, had their names and addresses taken, and were then searched - after being asked how old they were. Having to turn out one's pockets is an uncomfortable experience and likely to be very upsetting for children.

Similarly, we know of a case in which a house was searched at 11.00 pm without anybody over the age of 17 being present. Again, when no. 10 was searched one of the occupants had his ear twisted for refusing to answer questions - as is his right. The worst instance of DS malpractice we've heard about occurred a few months ago. After a raid on his house a student, three months under 21, was told that his boyfriend would be charged under the homosexuality laws unless he admitted to possessing the very small quantity of cannabis that had been found. Another major source of concern is the DS habit of removing address lists from houses.

Cannabis is not a dangerous drug. All users know this, and thirteen major national and international reports have come to the same conclusion. Indeed, it has a long history of being used as a medicine - for the treatment of asthma, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis etc. (I use it for colds!)

So why are the DS using methods that are normally associated with combatting violent criminals (sic)? It's not because they're looking for major suppliers - if they were, they'd search a lot more thoroughly than they have been (this isn't an invitation!) Given this, their actions can not have more than a very short-term effect on the amount of cannabis that gets smoked. One possibility is that the raids are simply an excuse to gain information about left-wing activists - certainly they show a lot of interest in political literature that they come across. But this doesn't explain the physical intimidation, and information gathering has been anything but systematic. More to the point, perhaps, individual members of the DS have made it quite clear that they don't like the people that they have been raiding - neither their politics, nor their appearance, nor their lifestyle. Also, simply, these methods do secure convictions - people have been frightened into admitting more than they needed to.

Bill Walker - with a little help

→ Fighting Back ←

This article is addressed primarily to those who have or think they might become victims of the DS. How can we protect ourselves? Broadly there are two approaches.

First, the vast majority of raids would have been unsuccessful (or not taken place at all) if simple precautions had been taken and/or people had known their rights. So... PRECAUTIONS

- 1) Phones may or may not be tapped. All we know is that phone-tapping is legal (the Home Secretary gave permission on more than six thousand occasions last year;) and that the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, Vic Gilbert, used to be Head of British Special Branch, who are specialists. DONT arrange transactions over the phone.
- 2) Simply, hide your stash where it won't be found. Cambridge DS look in all boxes and tins, open up clocks, leaf through books but don't...
- 3) At night, don't smoke where you can be seen through the window.
- 4) Destroy your roaches, despite a possible change in the law.
- 5) It's almost impossible to get busted smoking in a locked room (or locked house,) if you're ready to burn or eat the amount you have out.
- 6) How about keeping address lists or books out of sight - or making bogus ones?
- 7) We hear third-hand that Cambridge police station receives a constant stream of information about student smokers from other students. Watch out!

WHEN RAIDED:-

- 1) Ask to see the search warrant, if possible before they come in. Check the address, date, the reason given for the search, and whether any individuals are named. Unfortunately, they can legally enter and search without a warrant, if they have 'reasonable' grounds for suspicion. If it's a drug warrant, then try hassling them if, say, they start reading anything.
- 2) Ask to see the warrant card of the officer in charge, and note his or her number.
- 3) You'll be questioned separately and various kinds of pressure may be applied. You don't have to say anything other than your name and address. INSIST:- "I don't have to admit anything."
- 4) Try and watch everywhere that is being searched. Try and get witnesses, if possible a solicitor.

If you are STOPPED IN THE STREET the police officer(s) can only demand your name and address (if you're on foot) or search you (whether on foot or in a car etc.) if they have reasonable grounds for suspicion. So...

- 1) Ask them what they're suspecting you of.
- 2) Ask them what their grounds for suspicion are. If they give your

clothes, hairstyle etc. remind them that they're ignoring a Home Office directive. If they don't give any, try refusing to give your name and address / be searched. Make a special effort to do these things when you're not carrying anything (this applies in raids as well.)

3) Take the name and number of the officer(s), whether uniformed or not.

For either RAIDS OR STREET SEARCHES:-

- 1) Take notes. Take the name and number of officers that speak to you. Write a report of what happened as soon as you can. All witnesses should do this. Sign and date it and take it to a solicitor. These are called 'contemporaneous' notes.
- 2) If they want you to go to the police station, ask if you're being arrested. If you're not, then you don't have to go. If you are, then ask what for.
- 3) You can refuse to have your photograph and fingerprints taken. If you have been charged, the police can apply to a magistrate for consent, but often don't bother.
- 5) If any of your rights are being infringed, don't resist physically.
- 4) The police must inform a person of your choice where you are being held, if you ask them to.
- 6) If you are going to be charged, or if you want to sue or make a complaint against the police, see a sympathetic solicitor. London Release (01-289-3878) will probably know the best ones in Cambridge.

COME OUT OF YOUR CLOSETS!!!

So much for measures which can be taken by individual households. Why shouldn't we go further? Here are some ideas:

- 1) DS cars are very conspicuous: Ford Escorts with short aerials at the back. Take their numbers; ask the occupants what they're doing (politely) phone the police about people acting suspiciously.
- 2) Monitoring - if we had a safe address we could collect information about DS activities.
- 3) A Bust Fund - also, students can try and get their student unions to pay their fines.
- 4) Organise demonstrations in Cambridge, and coaches to national demos.
- 5) Inform ourselves - read News Release, The Release Bust Book etc.
- 6) Most important: we should have a meeting to share our ideas.

Graham and Eileen

Richard and Linda Thompson/Lady Mitchell Hall/Monday 6th November

Looking relaxed and confident, despite their long break from touring, Richard and Linda Thompson played an enjoyable set to an appreciative audience at LMH.

Disregarding their previous material, much of the night's music came from their new album First Light. With their backing musicians John Kirkpatrick (accordion and concertina), Sue Harris (oboe and dulcimer), Dave Pegg (bass and mandolin) and Dave Sheen (drums), they wandered onto stage and immediately launched into "Bright Lights" (better known to Radio One listeners as Julie Covington's new single).

Linda, dressed in bright-coloured satins, moved around the stage at ease. In contrast, Richard appeared more like an awkward adolescent than a major British singer-songwriter-guitarist, remaining in the background, hesitant and quiet when he spoke - but producing those brilliant Thompson guitar breaks every so often.

They sang fine versions of "restless highway" and "Don't let a thief steal into your heart", much more dynamic live than on vinyl. "Pavanne", a moving song about a female terrorist, was superbly sung by Linda Thompson while "Layla" featured some excellent playing from Richard.

They dipped here and there for the rest of their material - a John

Kirkpatrick number, a Fairport Oldie, one from Rick Nelson, and the parting encore "Then he kissed me".

They seem to have left their mystic stance behind - they've ripped off their robes and turbans and have become once again more aware of their audience, talking to them, playing to them. No telling how or when we'll see the Thompsons again, but it was a fine concert at LMH, and they certainly haven't lost devotees through being away from the road and the studios for so long.

Jill Fricker

The Jam/Corn Exchange/Friday 19th

The Jam, once labelled by critics as the band to write and play the best Who numbers this side of Pete Townsend, are one of the few out of the host of New Wave bands with whom they came into prominence to have retained their credibility. The band have refused to degenerate into the mass world of punk clichés; they have evolved a new sound all of their own, and showed at the Corn Exchange that they are set to move to even better things.

They emerged to a crammed and eager audience, many of whom had queued for over an hour, to hammer home their first number from All Mod Cons, setting in motion the pogo-pogo-pogo which continued throughout the set. The enthusiasm of the crowd, who greeted with rapturous applause each number, was rewarded by a potent mix of old and new material, ranging from "Mr Clean" to "Bricks and Mortar". The strident white lighting added to the dynamic atmosphere, and their last number, "A bomb in Waldorf Street", was accompanied by a phosphorescent magnesium flash, a cliché that for once came off. Finishing off as they did with a rendering of the Batman theme the band showed a refreshing touch of humour.

Of the support band "The Boys", attempting to reanimate an audience restless after too much of Patrick Fitzgerald tedium, one can say but one thing: everyone has the right to be bad, but The Boys abused that right over and over again.

Bill and Ben.

Goings On...

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality meets every Thursday evening. Details from Graham Payne, 9 Upper Gwydir St, tel: 311971 or Christine Donald, 152a Chesterton Rd., tel: 56344.

Every Monday evening we hold a gay disco in the Cellar Bar, The Anchor, Silver St - everyone welcome.

Friends of the Earth hold meetings every Wednesday evening at 8 pm at the Bath House, Gwydir St. On November 29th we will be discussing bikes policy and practice.

Wed 6th: Food in general: Bread in particular. What does wheatmeal mean? Every Saturday from 2 - 5 at the Bath House we are running a Bike workshop. Bring your bike, however dilapidated, and we'll show you how to fix it (free).

The Citizens Advice Bureau is at 31 Regents Terrace (by Parkers Piece). Opening hours from 10 - 4.30 Monday to Friday (closed 1 - 2 Thursday), and 10 am to 12 am on Saturdays. Tel: 53875 or 56442.

Claimants Union Sympathetic information and support from other claimants on problems with supplementary benefit or unemployment benefit. Info sessions Mondays 10.00 to 1.00, Tues and Thurs. 2.00 to 5.00. Ring 52813.

Women's Centre 48 Eden St, Cambridge. Open every Saturday from 2 - 5 pm. We also run a pregnancy testing and contraception advisory service at the same address from 6 to 7.30 on Wednesday evenings and from 10 to 11.30 am on Saturdays. Free and confidential service available to everyone.

Arjuna Wholefood Shop 12 Mill Rd. A comprehensive stock of grains, pulses, vegetables, herbs, bread, cakes, honey and other amazing comestibles. Open Mon, Tues, Wed: 9.30 - 6. Thurs: Closed. Friday: 9.30 - 7. Sat: 9.30 - 5.30.

Gingerbread give help and advice to single parent families. See page 12 for more details.

We always need more babysitters. If you are willing to spend an evening or two, ring Teversham 2690 (evngs). On Tuesday 28th November our office will be open from 8 pm for counselling and information, and on Thursday

Information, continued. . . .

December 7th we will be having a general meeting at 8 pm at the Arbury Community House.

Working Weekends on Organic Farms (WWOOF) A chance to spend a few days or longer learning various aspects of organic farming by working on a farm. Free board and lodging in return for hard (!) work. Contact Helen Seal, 22 Sleaford St (Tel: 50857) or write, enclosing S.A.E. to WWOOF, 19 Bradford Rd, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1RB.

Supplementary Benefits Review - meeting about the threat to benefit rates (see last Grapevine) postponed to Tuesday December 5th, 8 pm at the Adult Training Centre, Coldhams Lane. Speakers from Women's Aid and the Child Poverty Action Group.

Screen Printing Workshop. Help needed to set up and run a community printshop for use by local groups in the Bath House, Gwydir St. Ring 312800.

I want a lot of paint to paint a mural with kids. Lots of colours would be good, especially bright ones. Ring Jane 55053.

Cambridge Anarchist Group Bookstall Thursdays, 11.00 am to 2.00 pm. CCAT, outside canteen.

Recycled Paper available from Friends of the Earth, the Bath House, Gwydir St. £1.30 per ream.

Yoga for Pregnancy - a course of instruction. Every Tuesday, 10.30 am, Friends Meeting House, Jesus Lane.

"Immigration and Nationality - the need for new policies" Anne Dunnett. Public meeting called by the Cambridge Community RELations Council, Wesley Hall, King St. Thursday Dec 7th, 8 pm.

Wholefood Supper Friday 24th Nov, Mawson Hall. Tickets £1 from George Thorpe, 64845 (work), 49278 (home).

Cambridge Community Education offers a program of adult education courses and youth activities in the Cambridge area. For further information ring the Shire Hall, Cambridge 58811 ext. 412.

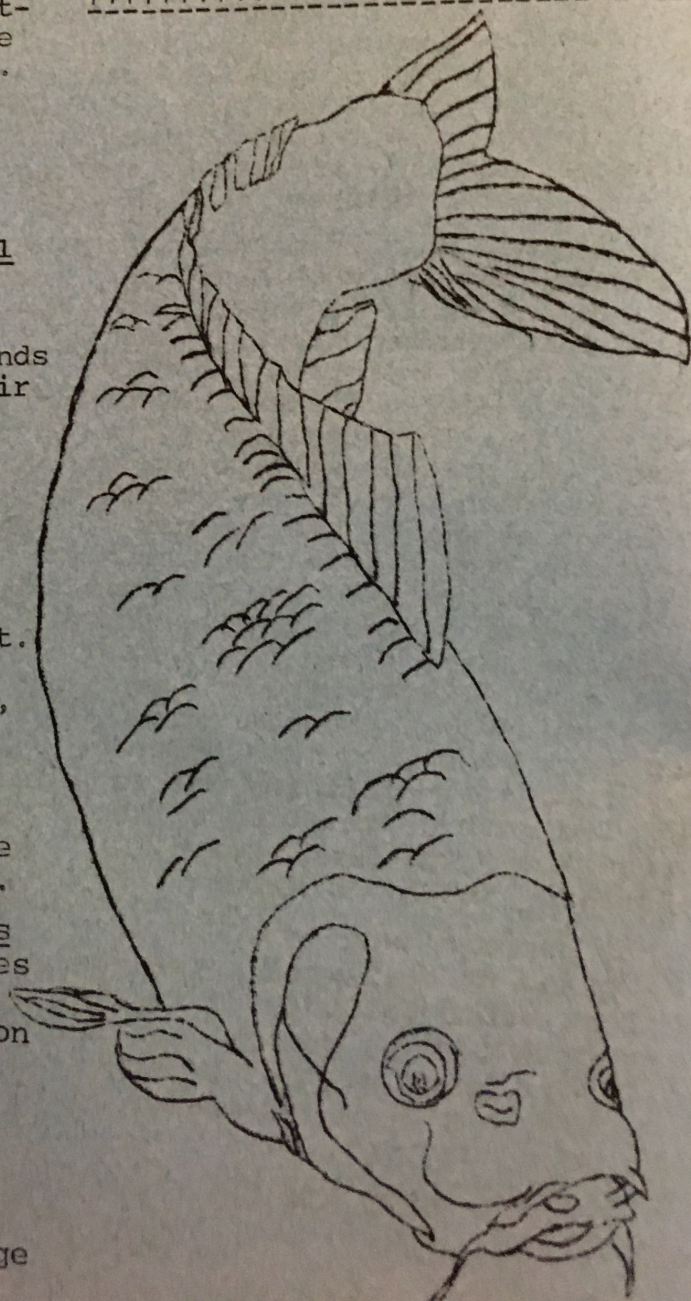
Furniture Wanted for the Empty Property Action Group house at 56 Histon Rd. This is now occupied (see page 3) but there is a shortage of creature comforts. Carpets par-

ticularly needed. All offers of help to 53 City Rd, Tel: 50365.

Benefit Concert for the Bath House neighbourhood centre. Live Music with Mik Moore and friends, dancing, inflatables, etc. Friday 22nd december at 7.30 pm, Friday 22nd december at Fisher House (by the Corn Exchange).

Whole Meals in Minutes A wholefood cook book produced by Cambridge Friends of the Earth. Available at 40p inc post and packaging (or 30p for orders over 25). From the Bath House, Gwydir St, Cambridge. (0223) 312800

Sorry about the shortage of pretty pictures in this issue of Grapevine. Theartist in chief was unable to start his car and so couldn't get tothe stencils in time.



BIG NEW WAR ON THE DOLE QUEUE CHEATS

UNDERCOVER investigators are spearheading a war on social-security fiddlers — infiltrating dole queues, quizzing employers, and studying reports on work-shy drawn up by Job Centre managers.



WHO ARE THE REAL SCROUNGERS?

£1,300m lost through gaping loopholes in the death duty laws. (Source: Child Poverty Action Group)

£500m lost through self-employed people wrongly underestimating their income. (Source: Inland Revenue Staff Federation)

Estimated 103m lost per year through V.A.T. evasion. (Source: Financial Times, 8 July 1976)

£20m taxes "unrecoverable" — for example, £9m lost through taxpayers leaving the country without settling their tax bills. (Source: Child Poverty Action Group)

£19.6m sought by the Inland Revenue from companies wrongly underestimating their profits. (Source: Inland Revenue Staff Federation)
(This doesn't include the latest company tax dodge: making fake loans and then claiming tax relief on the non-existent interest charges. This probably accounts for £100m. (Source: Sunday Times Business News)

2.1m. lost through all forms of Social Security Fraud — Unemployment, Sickness, Maternity and Widows' Benefits, Retirement Pensions, Industrial Injury and Supplementary Benefit. (Source: Hansard, 24 May 1976)

The Child Poverty Action Group estimates that

550,000 pensioners eligible for Supplementary Benefit do not claim;
360,000 families eligible for Supplementary Benefits do not claim;
65-70% of unfurnished tenants eligible for Rent Allowances do not claim;
80% of furnished tenants eligible for Rent Allowances do not claim.

This is to say nothing of the low levels of most benefits, and the humiliating conditions, like the six week rule and the cohabitation rule, which are attached to them.

Fury over 'Spain on the dole' reports



Drive against social benefit frauds to be intensified